

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2205421404

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Bowman House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

323 North Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boonsboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

24

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES, RESTRICTED

YES, UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Boonsboro Historical Society

Mr. Joseph Bikle, President

To be restored
and opened to
the public as
a museum.

STREET & NUMBER

323 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Boonsboro

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21713

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

95 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

WA-II-478

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
XGOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bowman House stands on the east side of North Main Street (Alternate Route 40) at 323, within the corporate limits of Boonsboro, in Washinton County, Maryland. The main facade faces west.

Architectural Character:

The house is a modest, circa 1826-1840, three bay, two story log structure built over an "L" shaped plan. The main part of the house is 28 feet wide and 21 feet deep; the wing measures 21 feet long and is 11 feet 6 inches deep. The front door is positioned off-center to the right on the west elevation. A wing attached to the back or east elevation is one story in height. Both sections of the house are set just above grade level on native limestone foundations with no basement.

The Bowman House is typical of log houses built in Western Maryland during the first half of the nineteenth century. A hewed V-notch construction detail was used at the exterior corners. All interior and exterior framing is wood. Twentieth century German wood siding presently covers the exterior of the whole structure. All of the windows on the first floor originally were six-over-six light sash with louvered wood shutters. There are two interior brick chimneys. A tin roofing material presently covers the gable roof.

Date of Erection:

Jacob Powles purchased 2 6/10 acres of land from Mathias Shaffner on March 25, 1826. The land had originally been part of a large tract containing 545 7/8 acres, known as "Nelson's Folly." The house, now known as the Bowman House probably was built by Jacob Powles between 1826 and 1840.

The trim on the exterior side of the door from the porch (now removed) into the kitchen on the south elevation, is similar to a molding profile shown in Asher Benjamin's 6th (1827) edition of The American Builder's Companion. Original flat trim with a bead is still in place under the German siding in some locations on the building. This original trim is secured with cut nails.

There is evidence of whitewash on all interior surfaces in every room. The whole interior of the house was originally whitewashed as a finish.

The original beaded tongue and grooved vertical board partitions are in an excellent state of preservation and much of the whitewash finish is flaking but still in place.

The door into the kitchen in the one story wing on the south elevation is an original beaded wood, tongue-and-groove batten door. A similar door

See continuation sheet #1

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The Bowman House
Boonsboro,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

on this elevation, now hung on the opening to the coal shed, was originally used on the interior of the house.

All of the windows on the ground floor and the second floor windows in the west elevation originally were six-over-six light sash. One original sash remains in each of the following elevations at the first floor: south, east and west.

The original sliding windows in the east elevation on the second floor were made from six-over-six, double-hung window units set on the side.

Alterations and additions:

John E. Bowman, the potter, who purchased the house in 1868, plastered walls, partitions and ceilings and installed new architectural wood trim on some interior openings. These features were added during the last half of the nineteenth century.

German wood siding probably was applied to the exterior surface of the main portion of the house in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

The profile of the German siding on the "L" is later than that found on the main portion of the house. Bowman apparently patched some areas of siding on the east elevation and at the same time covered the "L" with wood siding. The wood and/or coal shed was attached to the kitchen by Bowman sometime during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

At some point during the first quarter of the twentieth century, the attic window in the gable end of the south elevation was reduced in height. The original opening was partially closed-in with German siding.

Ellen Sarahetta (Nellie) Bowman Bender and her husband, Roger Bender, were probably responsible for adding the circa 1930's porch to the (front) west elevation. The porch extends the full length of the house at the first floor.

During the 1960's, Charles Smith made some alterations to the building. A first floor door on the east wall was closed-in and a partition dividing the two rooms at the south end of the main portion of the house was removed. Existing wood floor joists and wood flooring had suffered extensive termite damage and were removed. Mr. Smith replaced the

See continuation sheet #2

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The Bowman House
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION (continued)

wood flooring system with concrete slabs throughout the first floor. A wood frame porch, brick sidewalks and brick paving were also removed on the east side of the house. The finished grade at the area where these originally were located was then lowered and a concrete slab and 14 inch high retaining wall installed.

It should be noted that none of the alterations made by previous owners are irreversible. A master plan for complete restoration of the house and site is being completed by Eleanor Lakin, A.I.A. The restoration of the house and reconstruction of various outbuildings involved in the pottery business will be completed in phases as financing becomes available.

Description of the Interior

The front entrance opens into the room across the south end of the main section of the house. This room originally was separated with a beaded, tongue-and-grooved, vertical board, wood partition. A fireplace has been removed from the south wall, and a door to the outside on the east wall has been closed. It appears that both of these rooms were used for the pottery business.

All of the rooms on the first and second floor were separated by beaded, tongue-and-grooved, vertical board, wood partitions. The first floor partitions remain intact, except as mentioned above.

Sometime during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, wood lathing strips and plaster were applied to all interior surfaces on the first and second floor of the house. Wire as well as cut nails were found securing the lath strips to the faces of the logs and sheathing board partitions.

Painted and grained raised panel doors and interior trim were added to both floors at the same time the plastering was done.

The original wood joists and flooring on the first floor were removed by a previous owner. The structure was set on grade with no crawl space and suffered extensive termite damage. All flooring on the second floor and in the attic is in excellent condition.

On the left of the entrance is a room that probably was used as a parlor. The profile of the trim in the parlor dates from the last quarter of the nineteenth century and is held in place with wire nails. The dining room adjoins the parlor and opens into the kitchen "L." A small fire-

Continuation sheet #3

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The Bowman House
Boonsboro,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

DESCRIPTION (continued)

place which has been lined with additional brick to make the opening shallow enough to receive a stove is located on the north wall. The mantel is applied with wire nails and was a replacement when the plastering was done. The trim in the dining room consists of a returned bead or (fillet) top set on a 4-inch flat board with a bead on the jamb side. Most of the existing trim in this room is original to the house and is secured with cut nails.

A stairway from the dining room that led up to the second floor has been removed from the north fireplace wall. A door in the south partition enters the existing stairwell to the second floor. There is an original batten door on this opening.

The kitchen "L" has an interior cooking fireplace on the east wall. Wall cupboards probably were built into the alcove formed by the projecting masonry fireplace walls. There are some existing paneled doors that were apparently used in this location. The cupboard was removed when a kitchen sink was installed.

Interior and exterior trim in the kitchen "L" are applied with cut nails. Most of the original trim remains intact. There is quirk ogee and quirk bead trim top set on a 4 inch board with a bead on the jamb side on the exterior side of the door leading from the kitchen to what had originally been a porch on the south elevation. A similar trim profile is documented in Asher Benjamin's 6th edition of The American Builder's Companion.

The coal and/or wood shed added to the east wall of the kitchen "L" is a twentieth century replacement of an earlier storage space. White-washed walls and shelves allude to the fact that this area has always been protected from the elements.

Whitewash remains on all interior surfaces of the house. Areas of white-wash are visible behind the lath and indicate structural changes that have occurred.

The enclosed stairs open into a second floor hall at the head of the stairs on the west side of the house. Original batten doors open into the south and north front bedrooms. The vertical board partitions were removed and wood stud plastered partitions added in the last quarter

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The Bowman House
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DESCRIPTION (continued)

of the nineteenth century. The original locations of the sheathing board partitions are documented by the whitewash lines and nail holes on the overhead structure in all of the upstairs rooms.

Evidence of the chimney that was removed remains in numerous existing factors. The chimney was located on the south wall of the south-east bedroom. The stairs to the attic originate on the west wall of this room.

The original chimney from the fireplace in the dining room penetrates the northeast bedroom. Structural evidence indicates that there was a set of stairs leading to the first floor on the north wall; there was also another set of stairs leading to the attic against the west partition.

There is an attic space over the entire main section of the house. A loft that was used for storage covers the kitchen "L".

SIGNIFICANCE

WA-II-478

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1826-1840 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bowman House is the headquarters of the Boonsboro Historical Society. Architecturally, the building is typical of log dwellings built in Western Maryland during the first half of the nineteenth century.

In 1868 John Bowman established the "Boonsboro Pottery" at this location. He advertised that he manufactured all kinds of earthenware. John was the son of Emmanuel Bowman who was listed as a potter in Benevola, Maryland, in the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses. John and his brother David were listed as potter's apprentices to their father in the 1860 census. David was mentioned again in the 1870 census.

The Bowman family immigrated to Pennsylvania from Germany and later settled in Washington County, Maryland. Emmanuel Bowman's birth date, August 8, 1809, was handwritten in the German family bible. He had ten brothers and sisters.

John Bowman enlisted in the Union Army on August 18, 1862, at 21 years of age. During the war he received a back wound and was discharged June 9, 1865. After returning from the Civil War, he probably worked in his father's pottery business until he purchased the log house in Boonsboro.

Margaret Cornelia Stouffer and John E. Bowman were married on August 26, 1865. They had four children, Edward Stouffer, Olive Anna Mary, Flora Cornelia and Ellen Sarahetta (Nellie).

The Atlas of Washington County by Lake, Griffing and Stevenson published in 1877, listed John E. Bowman, Boonsboro, District No. 6, as a patron of the Atlas. The map of the town of Boonsboro indicated that there were two buildings on the Bowman property. One was a dwelling and the other could have been a workshop. The building where the pottery was made and the kiln for firing were probably located to the south or east of the existing house. The following description was given in the 1877 Atlas. "Boonsboro Business References," "John E. Bowman, proprietor of Boonsboro pottery. Manufacturer of all kinds of earthenware. Main Street."

Born December 23, 1841, John died April 23, 1906, at the age of 65. It is not known when he closed the pottery business.

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The Bowman House
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The potter as a craftsman played a necessary role in most nineteenth century communities, furnishing local households with utilitarian as well as decorative containers.

John Bowman worked in the tradition of Pennsylvania-German potters. Bowman applied simple lead glazes, some clear and some with oxide coloring agents over his redware pieces. He did not use the mottled glazing and multi-colored techniques found on redware by the potters of the Shenandoah Valley. The Valley potters dipped much of their redware into a light clay slip. Then they applied iron oxide and copper oxide splotches or streaks to the surface of the slip. During firing, the oxides produced a mottled or marbelized coloration in the glaze.

Several potters within relatively short traveling distances were experimenting and applying the type of glazes found in the Valley. Anthony Baecher (Bacher) had a pottery in Thurmont, about 24 miles to the east, and John Bell was operating his pottery in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, about 24 miles to the north. Both of these men worked in the traditions of the Shenandoah Valley potter. It is interesting that neither had any influence on Bowman.

Most redware was not marked, and the makers have unfortunately slipped into oblivion. Fortunately, many known Bowman pieces have survived. A collection of shards has been found in the garden. These fragments of edges, rims, bases, flanges and forms have provided information as to the types of pieces he made and the palette of glazes he used. Although no marked John Bowman pieces have been identified to date, collectors have identified some of his work by comparing the family pieces with unidentified examples. Certain characteristics are evident in many pieces that Bowman made.

Known forms of earthenware made by Bowman are as follows: jugs, crocks, pie plates, stove pipe fittings, bird houses, chamber pots, flower pots and saucers, hanging flower pots, sand blotters, pitchers, vases, toys, and roach traps which were a unique form.

It is not known whether he employed other potters or helpers in the shop. The pottery served a relatively small area and was probably a one or two person operation. Competitors Emmanuel Bowman, John Bell and Anthony Baecher also sold earthenware in the Boonsboro area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

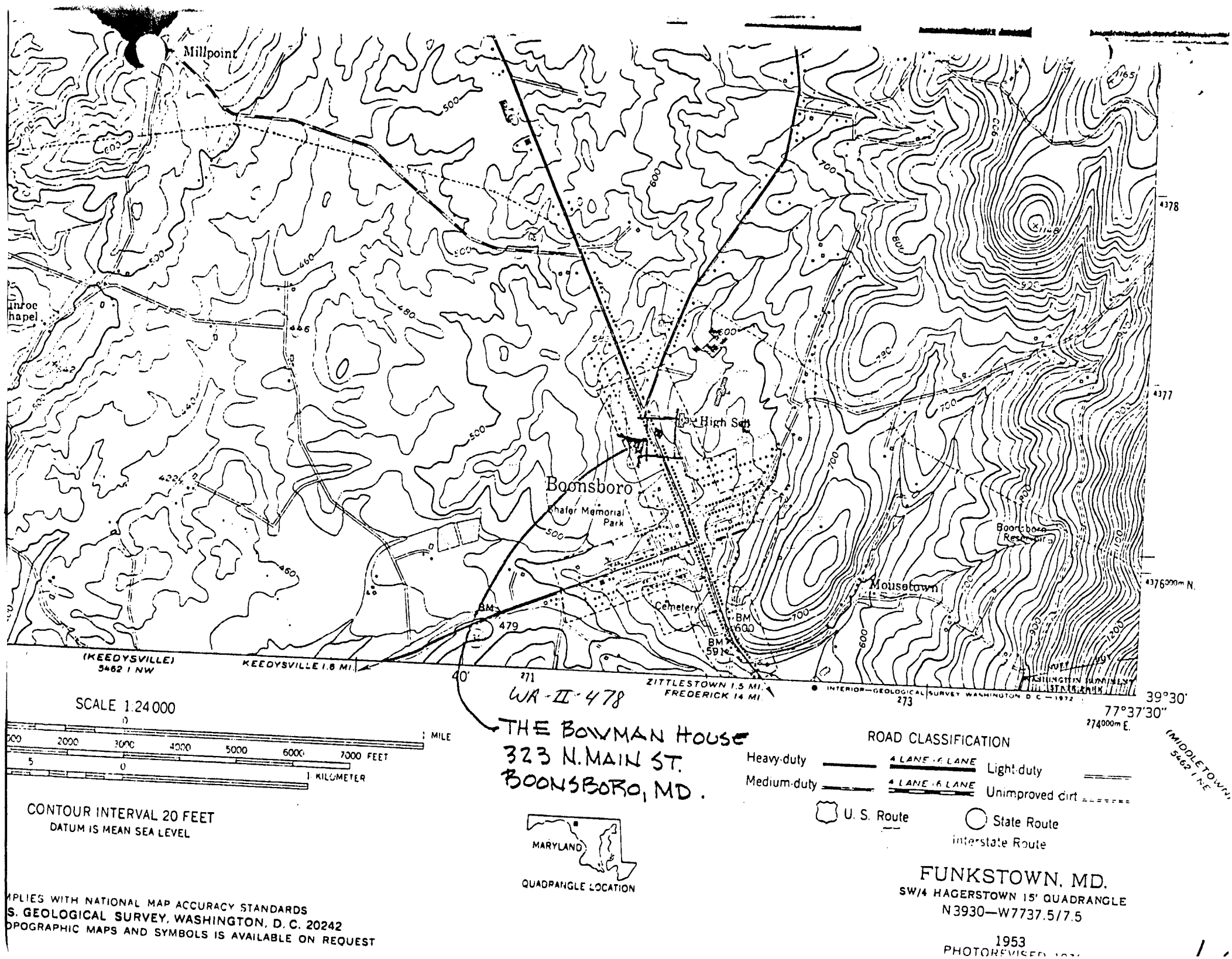
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PAGE 6

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

By 1908 the once flourishing potteries in the Valley had all closed. Competition from steam powered potteries and the introduction of glass containers destroyed the earthenware industry in the Shenandoah Valley. John Bowman probably ceased working and closed his business about the same time as the potteries located in the Valley.

The pottery made by John E. Bowman represents the type of wares made by the average artisan who provided functional earthenware products to nineteenth-century homes. The restoration of the existing house to the period when Bowman was working and the reconstruction of the potter's workshop and kiln will give the public insight into the life-style of a craftsman who was vital to the fabric of middle America.



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6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

WA-11-478

CONDITION

— EXCELLENT
X GOOD
— FAIR

— DETERIORATED
— RUINS
— UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

— UNALTERED
X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
— MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bowman House stands on the east side of North Main Street (Alternate Route 40) at 323, within the corporate limits of Boonsboro, in Washington County, Maryland. The main facade faces west.

Architectural Character:

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The Bowman House is typical of log houses built in Western Maryland during the first half of the nineteenth century. A hewed V-notch construction detail was used at the exterior corners. All interior and exterior framing is wood. Twentieth century German wood siding presently covers the exterior of the whole structure. All of the windows on the first floor originally were six-over-six light sash with louvered wood shutters. There are two interior brick chimneys. A tin roofing material presently covers the gable roof.

History of Erection:

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There is evidence of whitewash on all interior surfaces in every room. The whole interior of the house was originally whitewashed as a finish.

The original beaded tongue and grooved vertical board partitions are in an excellent state of preservation and much of the whitewash finish is flaking but still in place.

The door into the kitchen in the one story wing on the south elevation is an original beaded wood, tongue-and-groove batten door. A similar door

SP continuation sheet #1

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Maryland

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All of the windows on the ground floor and the second floor windows in the west elevation originally were six-over-six light sash. One original sash remains in each of the following elevations at the first floor: south, east and west.

The original sliding windows in the east elevation on the second floor were made from six-over-six, double-hung window units set on the side.

Alterations and additions:

John E. Bowman, the potter, who purchased the house in 1868, plastered walls, partitions and ceilings and installed new architectural wood trim on some interior openings. These features were added during the last half of the nineteenth century.

German wood siding probably was applied to the exterior surface of the main portion of the house in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

The profile of the German siding on the "L" is later than that found on the main portion of the house. Bowman apparently patched some areas of siding on the east elevation and at the same time covered the "L" with wood siding. The wood and/or coal shed was attached to the kitchen by Bowman sometime during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

At some point during the first quarter of the twentieth century, the attic window in the gable end of the south elevation was reduced in height. The original opening was partially closed-in with German siding.

Ellen Sarahetta (Nellie) Bowman Bender and her husband, Roger Bender, were probably responsible for adding the circa 1930's porch to the (front) west elevation. The porch extends the full length of the house at the first floor.

During the 1960's, Charles Smith made some alterations to the building. A first floor door on the east wall was closed-in and a partition dividing the two rooms at the south end of the main portion of the house was removed. Existing wood floor joists and wood flooring had suffered extensive termite damage and were removed. Mr. Smith replaced the

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

wood flooring system with concrete slabs throughout the first floor. A wood frame porch, brick sidewalks and brick paving were also removed on the east side of the house. The finished grade at the area where these originally were located was then lowered and a concrete slab and 14 inch high retaining wall installed.

It should be noted that none of the alterations made by previous owners are irreversible. A master plan for complete restoration of the house and site is being completed by Eleanor Lakin, A.I.A. The restoration of the house and reconstruction of various outbuildings involved in the pottery business will be completed in phases as financing becomes available.

Description of the Interior

The front entrance opens into the room across the south end of the main section of the house. This room originally was separated with a beaded, tongue-and-grooved, vertical board, wood partition. A fireplace has been removed from the south wall, and a door to the outside on the east wall has been closed. It appears that both of these rooms were used for the pottery business.

All of the rooms on the first and second floor were separated by beaded, tongue-and-grooved, vertical board, wood partitions. The first floor partitions remain intact, except as mentioned above.

Sometime during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, wood lathing strips and plaster were applied to all interior surfaces on the first and second floor of the house. Wire as well as cut nails were found securing the lath strips to the faces of the logs and sheathing board partitions.

Painted and grained raised panel doors and interior trim were added to both floors at the same time the plastering was done.

The original wood joists and flooring on the first floor were removed by a previous owner. The structure was set on grade with no crawl space and suffered extensive termite damage. All flooring on the second floor and in the attic is in excellent condition.

To the left of the entrance is a room that probably was used as a parlor. The profile of the trim in the parlor dates from the last quarter of the nineteenth century and is held in place with wire nails. The dining room adjoins the parlor and opens into the kitchen "L." A small fire-

Continuation sheet #3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY--NOMINATION FORM

The Bowman House
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DESCRIPTION (continued)

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A stairway from the dining room that led up to the second floor has been removed from the north fireplace wall. A door in the south partition enters the existing stairwell to the second floor. There is an original batten door on this opening.

The kitchen "L" has an interior cooking fireplace on the east wall. Wall cupboards probably were built into the alcove formed by the projecting masonry fireplace walls. There are some existing paneled doors that were apparently used in this location. The cupboard was moved when a kitchen sink was installed.

Interior and exterior trim in the kitchen "L" are applied with cut nails. Most of the original trim remains intact. There is quirk ogee and quirk bead trim top set on a 4 inch board with a bead on the jamb side on the exterior side of the door leading from the kitchen to what had originally been a porch on the south elevation. A similar trim profile is documented in Asher Benjamin's 6th edition of The American Builder's Companion.

The coal and/or wood shed added to the east wall of the kitchen "L" is a twentieth century replacement of an earlier storage space. White-washed walls and shelves allude to the fact that this area has always been protected from the elements.

Whitewash remains on all interior surfaces of the house. Areas of white-wash are visible behind the lath and indicate structural changes that have occurred.

The enclosed stairs open into a second floor hall at the head of the stairs on the west side of the house. Original batten doors open into the south and north front bedrooms. The vertical board partitions were removed and wood stud plastered partitions added in the last quarter

See continuation sheet #4

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The Bowman House
Boonsboro,
Maryland

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

of the nineteenth century. The original locations of the sheathing board partitions are documented by the whitewash lines and nail holes on the overhead structure in all of the upstairs rooms.

Evidence of the chimney that was removed remains in numerous existing factors. The chimney was located on the south wall of the south-east bedroom. The stairs to the attic originate on the west wall of this room.

The original chimney from the fireplace in the dining room penetrates the northeast bedroom. Structural evidence indicates that there was a set of stairs leading to the first floor on the north wall; there was also another set of stairs leading to the attic against the west partition.

There is an attic space over the entire main section of the house. A loft that was used for storage covers the kitchen "L".

SIGNIFICANCE

WA-II-478

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1826-1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bowman House is the headquarters of the Boonsboro Historical Society. Architecturally, the building is typical of log dwellings built in Western Maryland during the first half of the nineteenth century.

In 1868 John Bowman established the "Boonsboro Pottery" at this location. He advertised that he manufactured all kinds of earthenware. John was the son of Emmanuel Bowman who was listed as a potter in Benevola, Maryland, in the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses. John and his brother David were listed as potter's apprentices to their father in the 1860 census. David was mentioned again in the 1870 census.

The Bowman family immigrated to Pennsylvania from Germany and later settled in Washington County, Maryland. Emmanuel Bowman's birth date, August 8, 1809, was handwritten in the German family bible. He had ten brothers and sisters.

John Bowman enlisted in the Union Army on August 18, 1862, at 21 years of age. During the war he received a back wound and was discharged June 9, 1865. After returning from the Civil War, he probably worked in his father's pottery business until he purchased the log house in Boonsboro.

Margaret Cornelia Stouffer and John E. Bowman were married on August 26, 1865. They had four children, Edward Stouffer, Olive Anna Mary, Flora Cornelia and Ellen Sarahetta (Nellie).

The Atlas of Washington County by Lake, Griffing and Stevenson published in 1877, listed John E. Bowman, Boonsboro, District No. 6, as a patron of the Atlas. The map of the town of Boonsboro indicated that there were two buildings on the Bowman property. One was a dwelling and the other could have been a workshop. The building where the pottery was made and the kiln for firing were probably located to the south or east of the existing house. The following description was given in the 1877 Atlas. "Boonsboro Business References," "John E. Bowman, proprietor of Boonsboro pottery. Manufacturer of all kinds of earthenware. Main Street."

Born December 23, 1841, John died April 23, 1906, at the age of 65. It is not known when he closed the pottery business.

See continuation sheet #5

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The Bowman House
Boonsboro,
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The potter as a craftsman played a necessary role in most nineteenth century communities, furnishing local households with utilitarian as well as decorative containers.

John Bowman worked in the tradition of Pennsylvania-German potters. Bowman applied simple lead glazes, some clear and some with oxide coloring agents over his redware pieces. He did not use the mottled glazing and multi-colored techniques found on redware by the potters of the Shenandoah Valley. The Valley potters dipped much of their redware into a light clay slip. Then they applied iron oxide and copper oxide splotches or streaks to the surface of the slip. During firing, the oxides produced a mottled or marbelized coloration in the glaze.

Several potters within relatively short traveling distances were experimenting and applying the type of glazes found in the Valley. Anthony Baecher (Bacher) had a pottery in Thurmont, about 24 miles to east, and John Bell was operating his pottery in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, about 24 miles to the north. Both of these men worked in the traditions of the Shenandoah Valley potter. It is interesting that neither had any influence on Bowman.

Most redware was not marked, and the makers have unfortunately slipped into oblivion. Fortunately, many known Bowman pieces have survived. A collection of shards has been found in the garden. These fragments of edges, rims, bases, flanges and forms have provided information as to the types of pieces he made and the palette of glazes he used. Although no marked John Bowman pieces have been identified to date, collectors have identified some of his work by comparing the family pieces with unidentified examples. Certain characteristics are evident in many pieces that Bowman made.

Known forms of earthenware made by Bowman are as follows: jugs, crocks, pie plates, stove pipe fittings, bird houses, chamber pots, flower pots and saucers, hanging flower pots, sand blotters, pitchers, vases, toys, and roach traps which were a unique form.

It is not known whether he employed other potters or helpers in the shop. The pottery served a relatively small area and was probably a one or two person operation. Competitors Emmanuel Bowman, John Bell and Anthony Baecher also sold earthenware in the Boonsboro area.

See continuation sheet #6

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Maryland

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

By 1908 the once flourishing potteries in the Valley had all closed. Competition from steam powered potteries and the introduction of glass containers destroyed the earthenware industry in the Shenandoah Valley. John Bowman probably ceased working and closed his business about the same time as the potteries located in the Valley.

The pottery made by John E. Bowman represents the type of wares made by the average artisan who provided functional earthenware products to nineteenth-century homes. The restoration of the existing house to the period when Bowman was working and the reconstruction of the potter's workshop and kiln will give the public insight into the life-style of a craftsman who was vital to the fabric of middle America.

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The Bowman House
Boonsboro,
Maryland

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SITE NUMBER: WA-II-478

ADDRESS: 323 North Main Street, Boonsboro, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Bowman House, Boonsboro Historical Society, open during museum hours

BUILDING DATE: 1852

Listed on the National Register. See file at MHT.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Economic; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julianne Mueller, July 1992

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

I. Geographic Region:

- ☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
☐ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
☒ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- ☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
☒ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
☐ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
☐ Unknown Period (☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

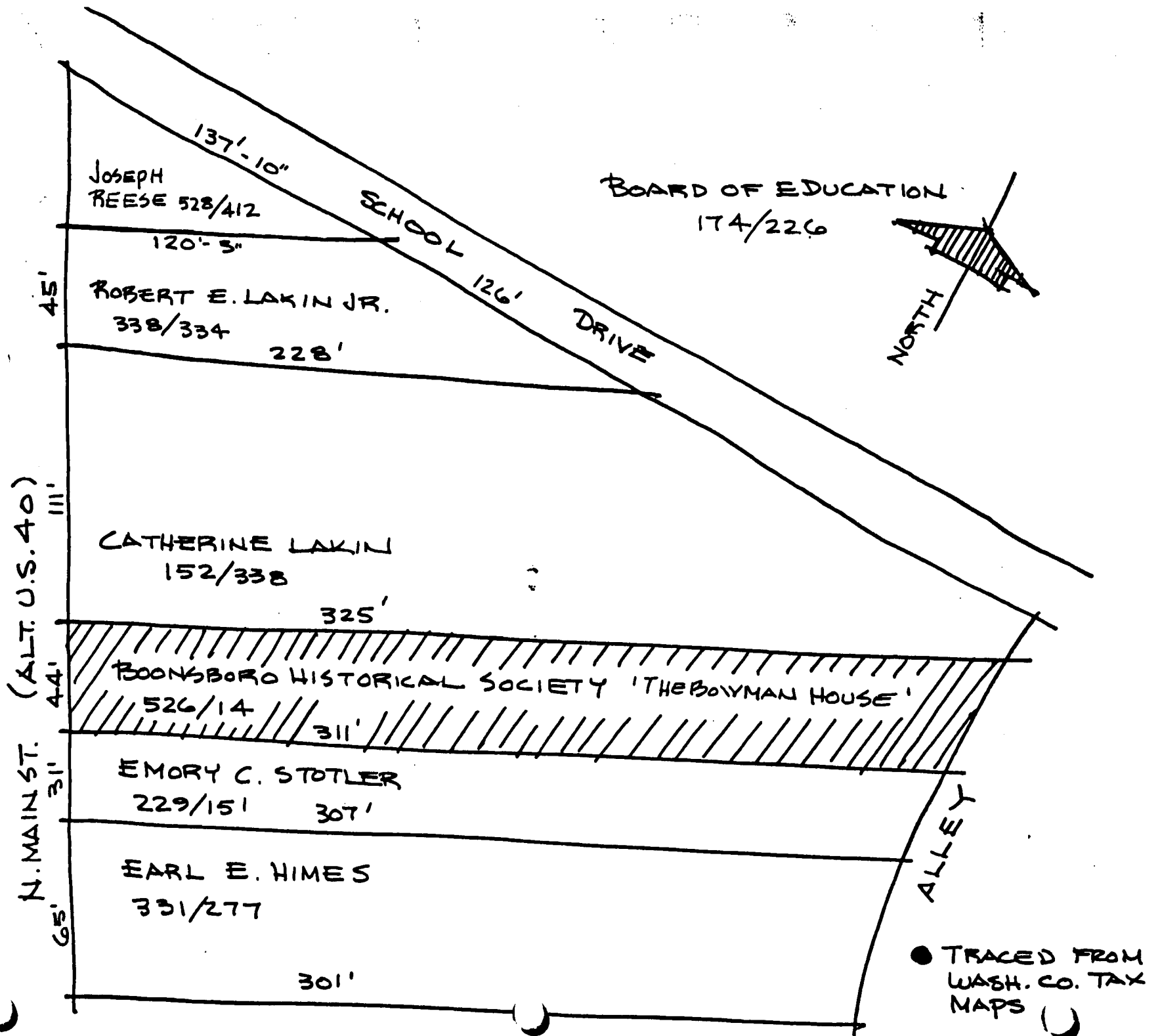
III. Historic Period Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture
☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
☒ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
☐ Government/Law
☐ Military
☐ Religion
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural
☐ Transportation

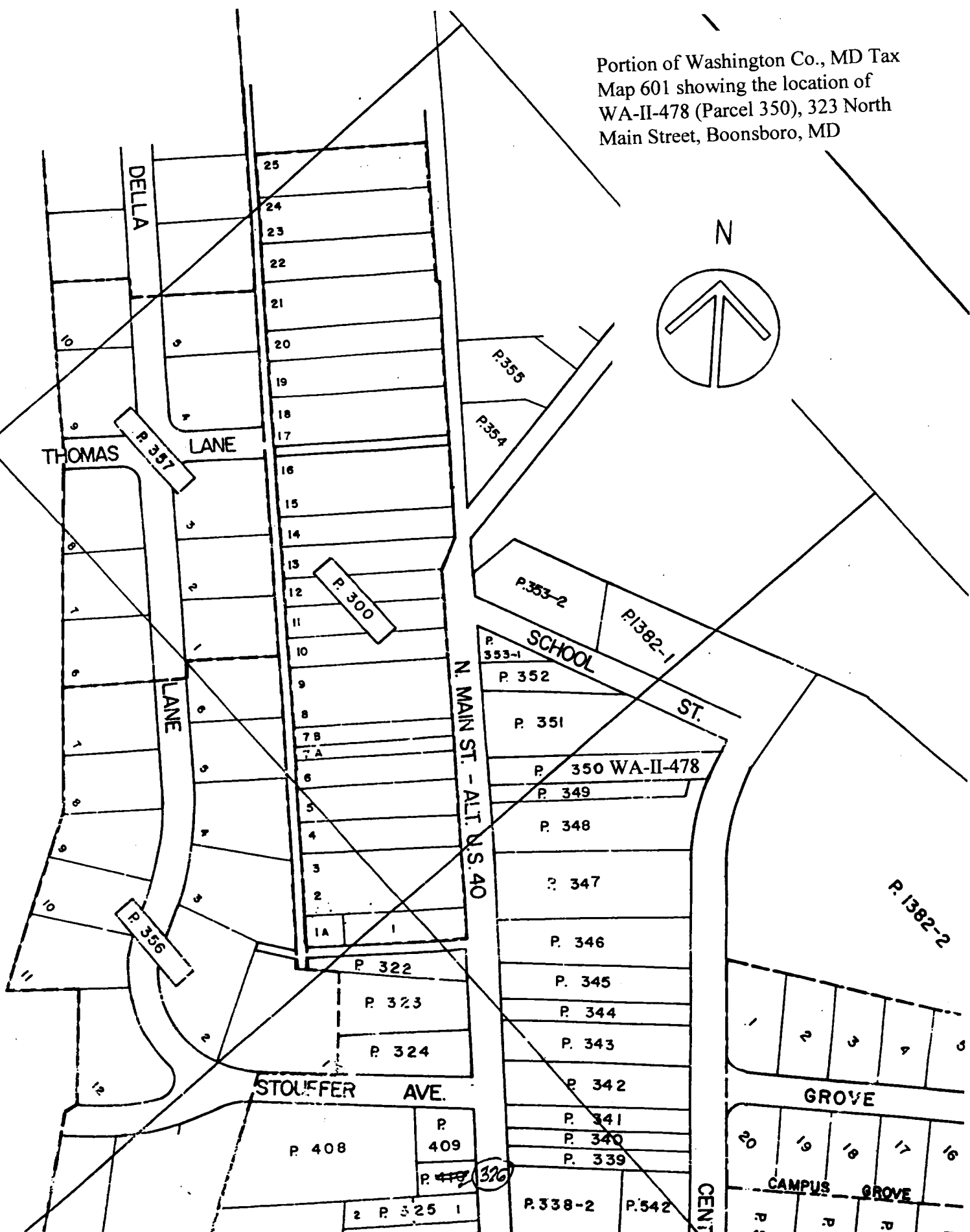
IV. Resource Type:

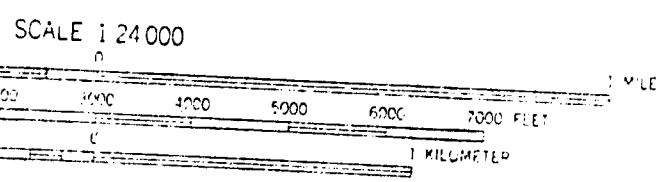
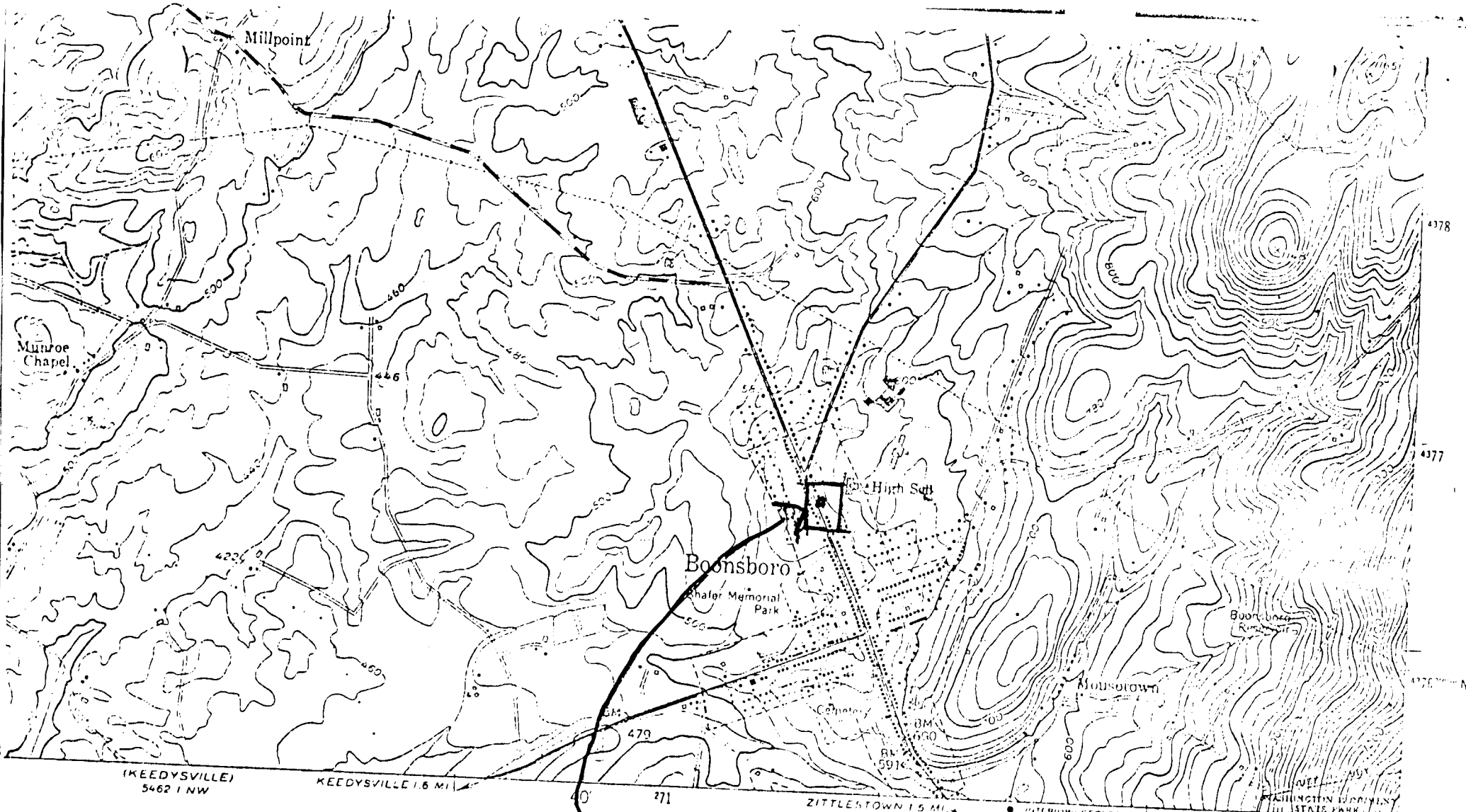
Category: Building
Historic Environment: Village
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/single dwelling;
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility (potter)
Known Design Source: None

WA-II-478



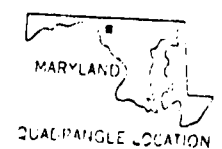
Portion of Washington Co., MD Tax
Map 601 showing the location of
WA-II-478 (Parcel 350), 323 North
Main Street, Boonsboro, MD





CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

WA-II-478
THE BOWMAN HOUSE
323 N. MAIN ST.
BOONSBORO, MD.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION			
Heavy duty	4 LANE 1 LANE	Light duty	2 LANE 1 LANE
Medium duty	4 LANE 1 LANE	Unimproved dirt	2 LANE 1 LANE
U. S. Route		State Route	
		Interstate Route	

FUNKSTOWN, MD.
SW/4 HAGERSTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3930-W 7737.5/7.5

1953
PHOTO REVISION 1971
AND 1983 N SW-SERIES V813

COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



WA 11-478

1982 7 F. H. H. CO

Bowman house / Boonsboro Pottery

323 N. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co, MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg MD SHPO

looking SE, main house



WA11-478
The Bowman House / Boonsboro Potten
323 N. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking NE, main house



WA-ID-478

323 N. MAIN ST. BOONSBORO, WASH CO.

12/91

JULIE MUELLER

LOOKING NE



WA-11-478

Bowman House / Boonsboro Pottery

323 N. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking SE, main house



WA-11-478

Bowman House / Boonsboro Pottery
323 N. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking w, main house



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Bowman House / Boonsboro Pottery

323 N. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co. MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg MD SHPO

looking NW, main house



WA-11-478

Bowman House / Boonsboro Pottery

323 N. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Terri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking NW, main house



Bowman House / Boonsboro Pottery

WA - 11-478

323 N. Main St

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking SE, barn